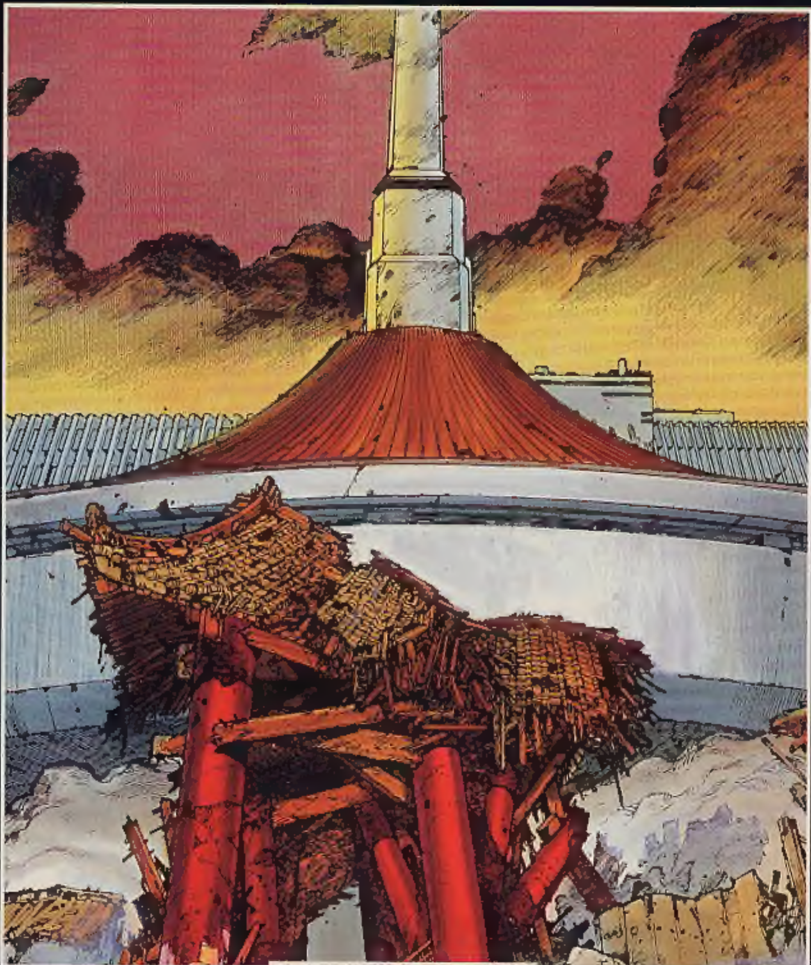
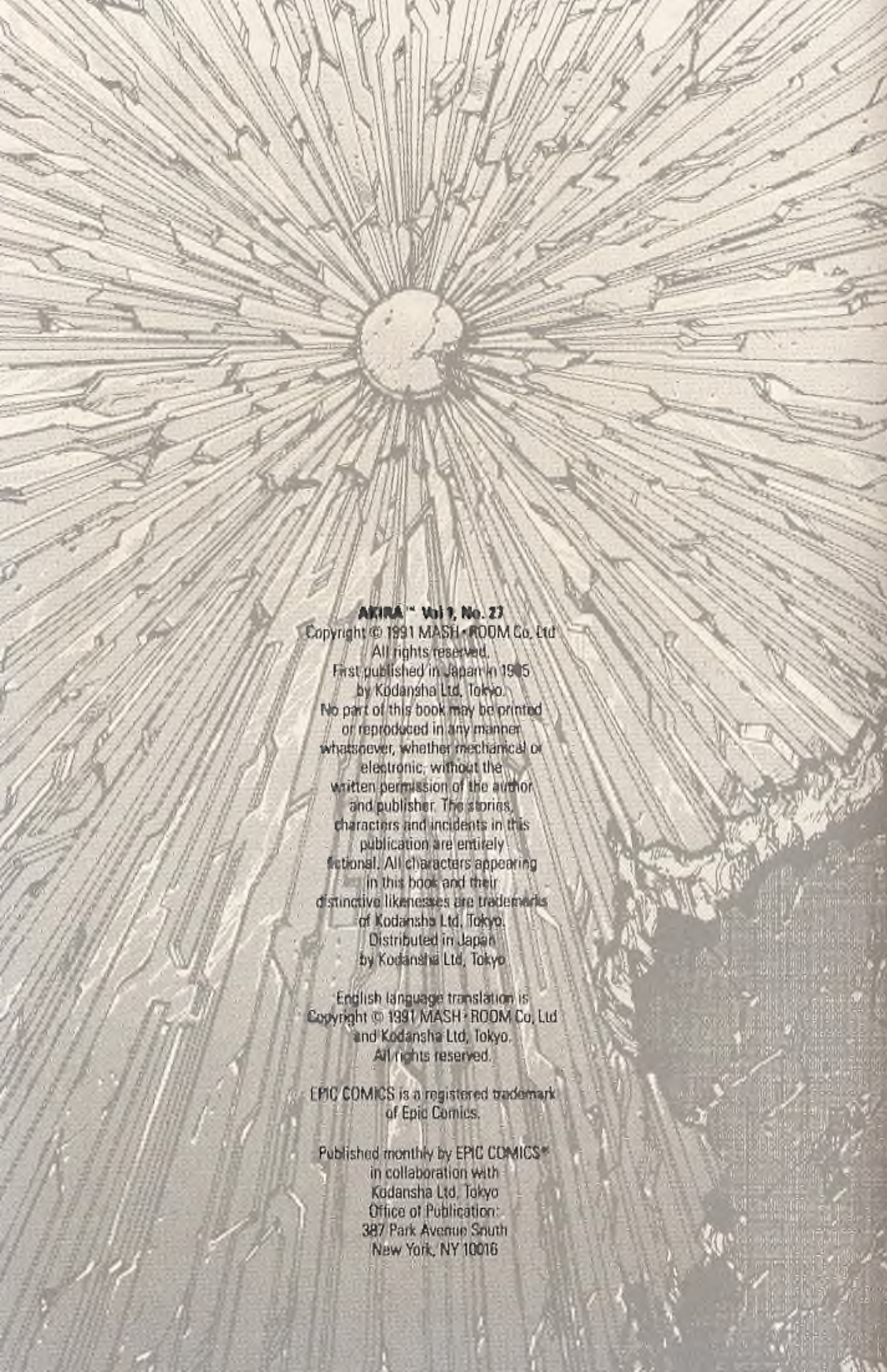
AKIRA

27 ™

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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 27

THE GRAND CONVOCATION

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members include **Kay, Ryu,** and **Chiyoko.**

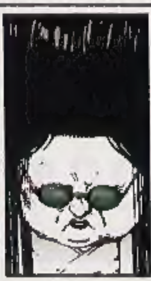
The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo,** once Kaneda's close friend, but now his greatest enemy. **Tetsuo** lost his arm to a laser blast from the military satellite SOL and has used telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic left arm.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—**Akira**—a quiet boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep forty years ago, when he started the third world war with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**. Shortly thereafter, he responded to an emotional trauma by again devastating the re-created city of Neo-Tokyo. Japan now exists in a state of emergency, with the forces of the army and the resistance scattered, the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrolling the streets, and new powers and allegiances arising within.

In the western part of the Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs and training to develop psychic abilities in certain of their subjects. Among their



Kai



Lady Miyako



Kay



Tetsuo

numerous followers is a dapper assistant determined at all costs to destroy **Lady Miyako**, who offers sanctuary to any who come to her eastern shrine.

The Empire is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world. All of the spies except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada**, but soon after, **Tetsuo** meets the pair and reveals that **Yamada** has come to kill **Akira**. The spy decides to separate from his persistent would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is determined to kill **Tetsuo** to atone for bringing about what he believes could become another **Akira**. At this same time, **Tetsuo** is trying to master his own weaknesses and his powers, so that he might control Akira's awesome might. Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako** and her psychically gifted monks are caring for **Masaru** and **Kiyoko**, who are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers. They await the return of **Kaneda** and his friend **Kay** and **Chiyoko**—both of whom were wounded in battle with Tetsuo's followers. **Lady Miyako** is particularly concerned about **Kay**, because although **Kay** lacks native telepathic abilities, the girl is a powerful medium for the talents of others.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists assembles. They pool their knowledge of the **Akira** project, code-named **Juvenile A.** Their data indicates that the effect of Akira's power is like that of the Big Bang and that the most recent blast (which was one of Tetsuo's) lacked the scope and dimension of the ones **Akira** caused.

The scientists are aghast when they learn that the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps**. They are even more upset by the knowledge that the soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. Almost as if in confirmation of this, **Tetsuo** decides to pay a visit to his "fan club." During a flight exercise, the boy casually destroys a plane, killing the pilot. Then he taunts the scientists of **Juvenile A** for their limited ideas and aspirations before disappearing in a burst of destructive telekinetic energy.



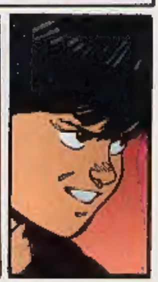
Kaori



Akira

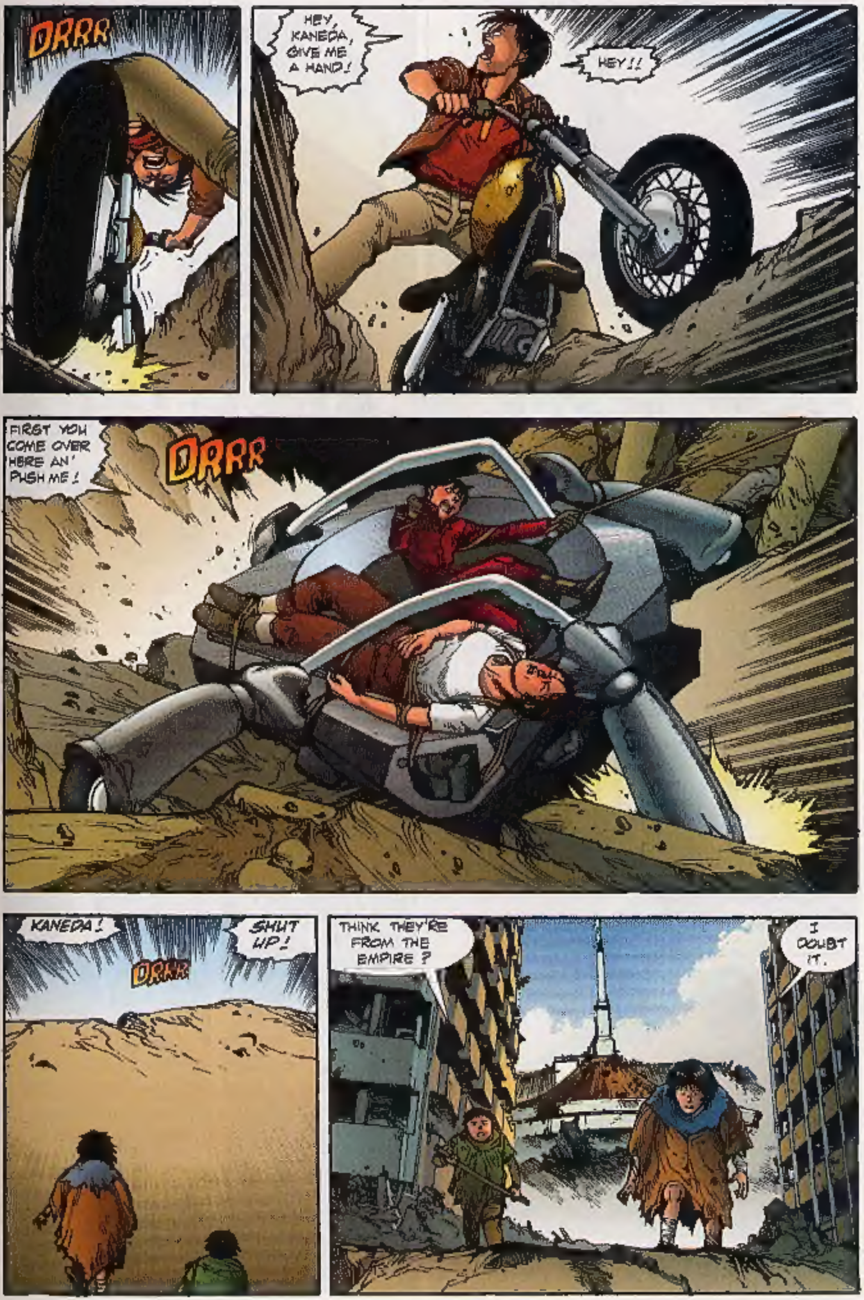


The Colonel



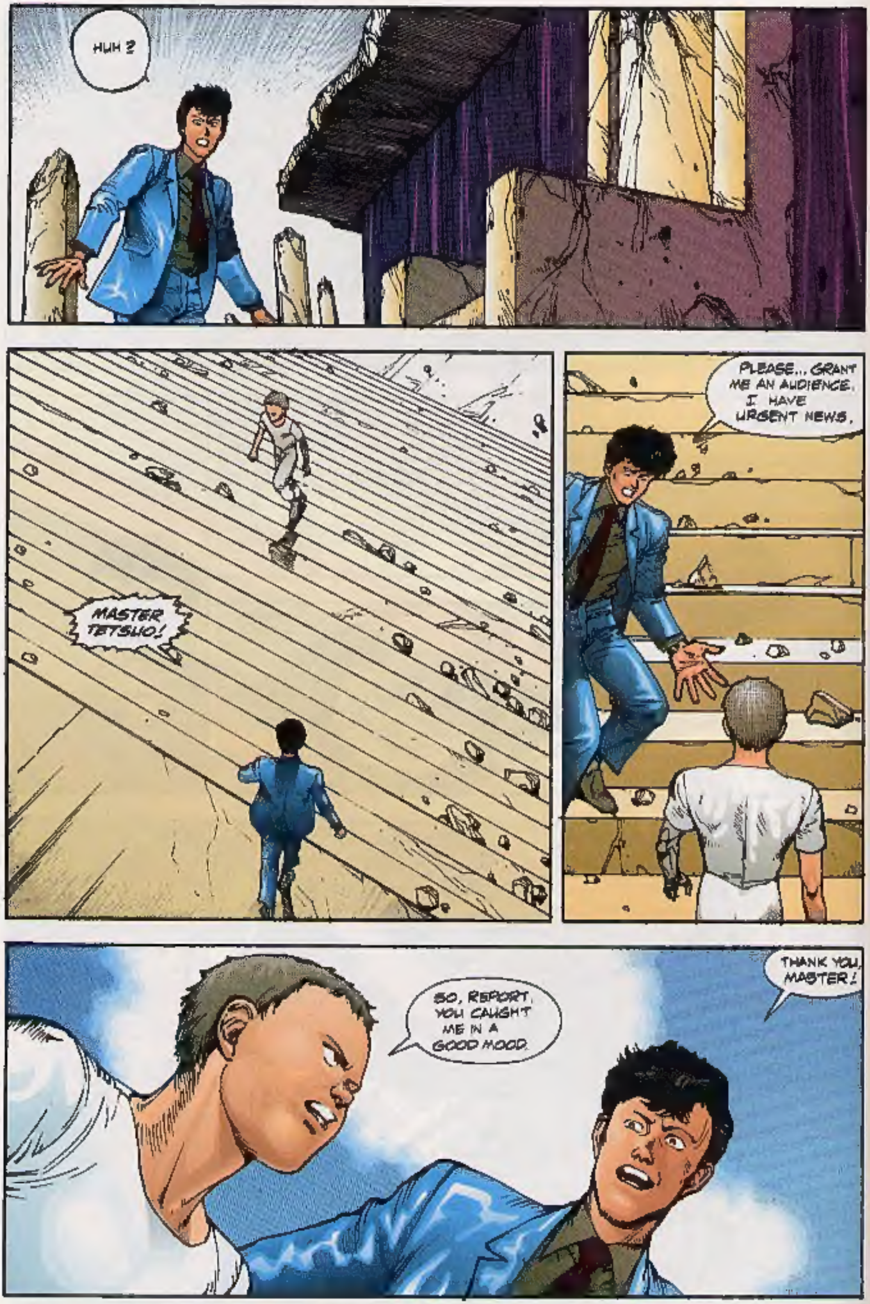
Kaneda


KAY...
DRRR


DRRR
HEY, KANEDA, GIVE ME A HAND!
HEY!!
FIRST YOU COME OVER HERE AN' PUSH ME!
DRRR
KANEDA!
SHUT UP!
DRRR
THINK THEY'RE FROM THE EMPIRE?
I DOUBT IT.


tap
tap
"PACKAGE ARRIVED SAFELY, OVER AND OUT," RIGHT?
SNAP
POP
SH OOF
?!
SKF
WHAP
SPLASH


MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, HUNH ?
WE MET BY CHANCE, SO I DON'T WANT YOUR DEATH ON MY CONSCIENCE...
BOOSH
...SO GET LOST.
YEAH. I LOVE YOU, TOO.


HUH ?
MASTER TETSUO!
PLEASE... GRANT ME AN AUDIENCE. I HAVE URGENT NEWS.
SO, REPORT. YOU CAUGHT ME IN A GOOD MOOD.
THANK YOU, MASTER!

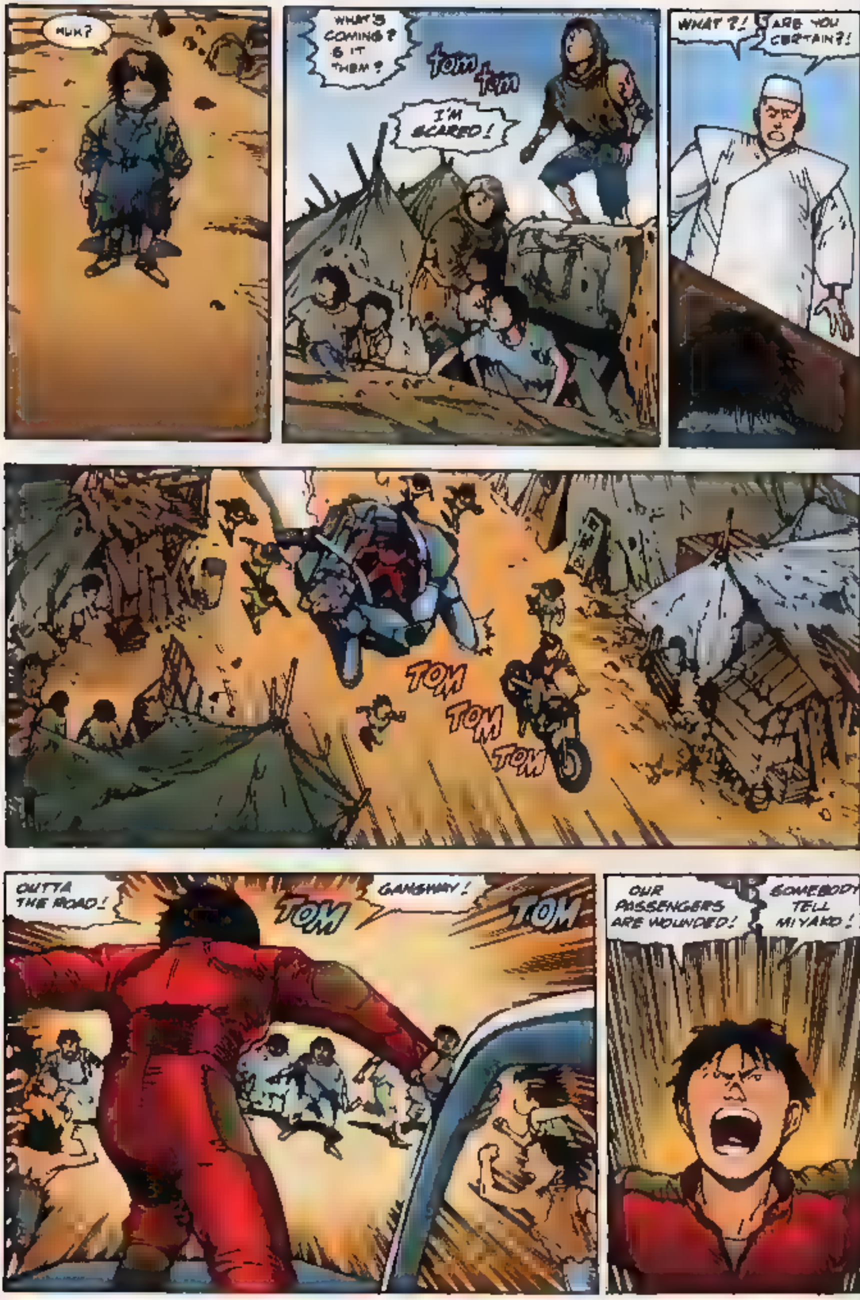

WHAT ?
YOU'RE ASKING FOR A PUBLIC MEETING ?
YES . YESSIR!
MIYAKO'S INFLUENCE IS BEING FELT THROUGHOUT OUR EMPIRE
SOME OF OUR SUBJECTS ARE WEAK AND CONFUSED THEY'RE BEING LED ASTRAY.
BUT ONE DISPLAY-- A BIG PUBLIC CONVOCATION--
--WHERE YOU AND LORD AKIRA LET THEM FEEL YOUR POWER--
--THAT WOULD SHOW THEM! AND HUMBLE THEM!
OH, A DEMON-STRATION ..
.. TO GET THEM BACK IN LINE . WITH A BANG!


ZZIP
HRRP
HRRR
?
RRRR
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHRINK-WRAP YOURSELF ?
KLAK


FLIP
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING HUNTING
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
KLIT
WHAT THE--?!
BIO-CHEMICAL WEAPONS?!


YOU CAN'T FIRE THOSE HERE!
IT'LL KILL EVERY-ONE!
THINK OF THE PEOPLE!
NOT JUST SUBJECTS OF THE EMPIRE... BUT REFUGEES AND RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS..
I OFFERED YOU A CHANCE TO GO
NO!
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
VERY MOVING... TRANSFORMING YOURSELF FROM A DISAFFECTED ACTIVIST--
--INTO JOAN OF ARC.


FORGET IT.
tak
HEY!
WHO SAID YOU COULD LEAVE ?!
!
POW
THAM
AMATEUR HOUR'S OVER.
.. AH. AHHK.
MAKE SURE YOU'RE UPWIND WHEN THE BUGS START TO FLY



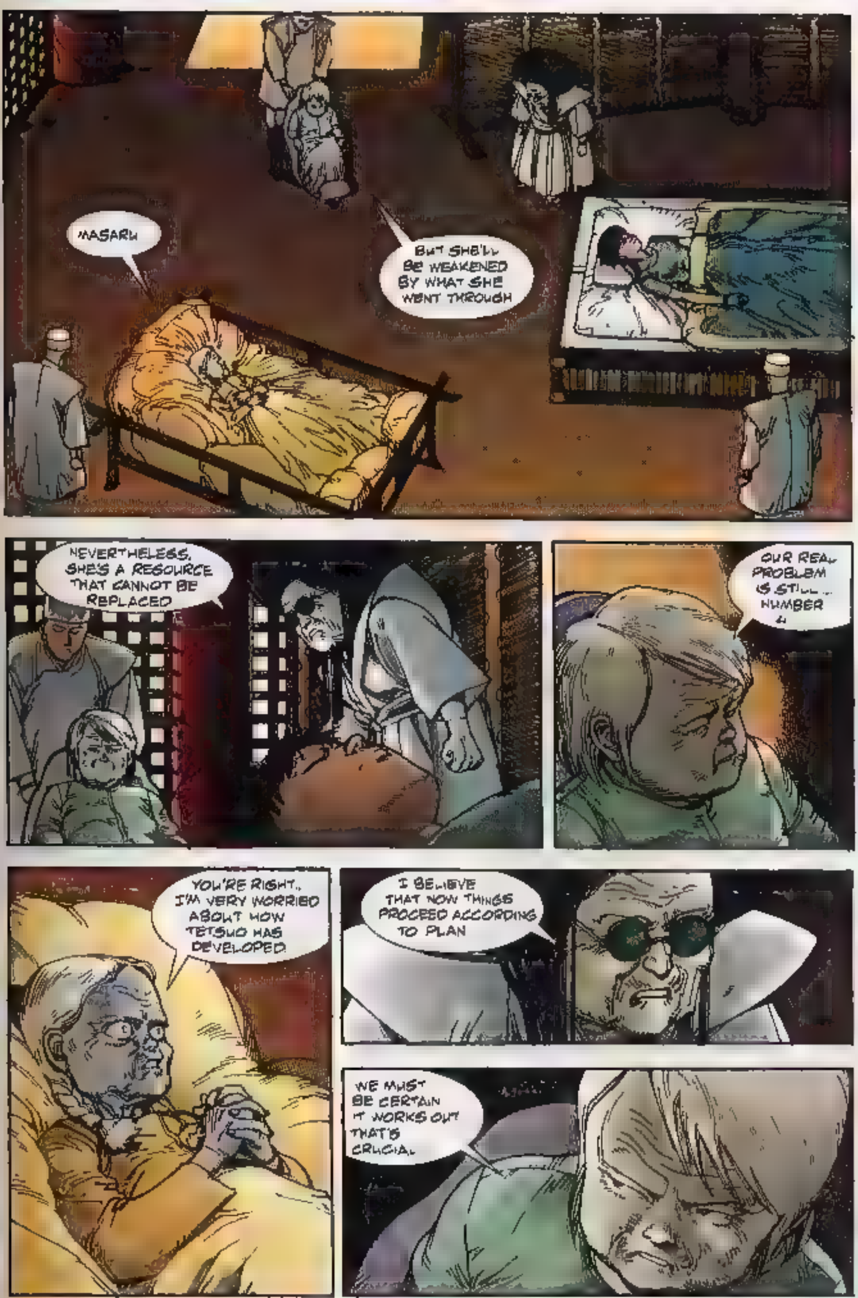
HUH?
WHAT'S COMING? IS IT THEM?
tom tom
I'M SCARED!
WHAT?!
ARE YOU CERTAIN?!
TOM
TOM
TOM
OUTTA THE ROAD!
TOM
GANGWAY!
TOM
OUR PASSENGERS ARE WOUNDED!
SOMEBODY TELL MIYAKO!


KAY ?!
WHAT ABOUT HER?!
SHE'S BEEN INJURED ?!
WE MUST HEAL HER AT ONCE! PREPARE FOR IT!
WATCH IT HOLD HER HEAD UP


Kata Kata
Kata
Kata
Kata
SHOULDN'T WE CALL A DOCTOR ?
...


WHAT'S HAPPENING? WILL SHE BE OKAY?
LADY MIYAKO IS HEALING HER
NOW BE SILENT
...UMMM.
DON'T WORRY ONLY MINOR BLOOD VESSELS WERE RUPTURED
REALLY?!
IS SHE REALLY GONNA MAKE IT?
THE WOUND IS ALREADY CLOSED.
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE BLOOD IN THE VENTRICLES OF HER BRAIN TO BE RE ABSORBED...
BUT SHE'LL BE FINE
KAY...


HEY...
KAI!
WHAT'S THE STORY ON KAY?
SHE'S GONNA MAKE IT!
THE OL' BAG REALLY CAME THROUGH FOR HER
IT LOOKS LIKE THE WORST IS OVER


MASARU
BUT SHE'LL BE WEAKENED BY WHAT SHE WENT THROUGH
NEVERTHELESS, SHE'S A RESOURCE THAT CANNOT BE REPLACED
OUR REAL PROBLEM IS STILL... NUMBER 4
YOU'RE RIGHT.. I'M VERY WORRIED ABOUT HOW TETSUO HAS DEVELOPED
I BELIEVE THAT NOW THINGS PROCEED ACCORDING TO PLAN
WE MUST BE CERTAIN IT WORKS OUT THAT'S CRUCIAL

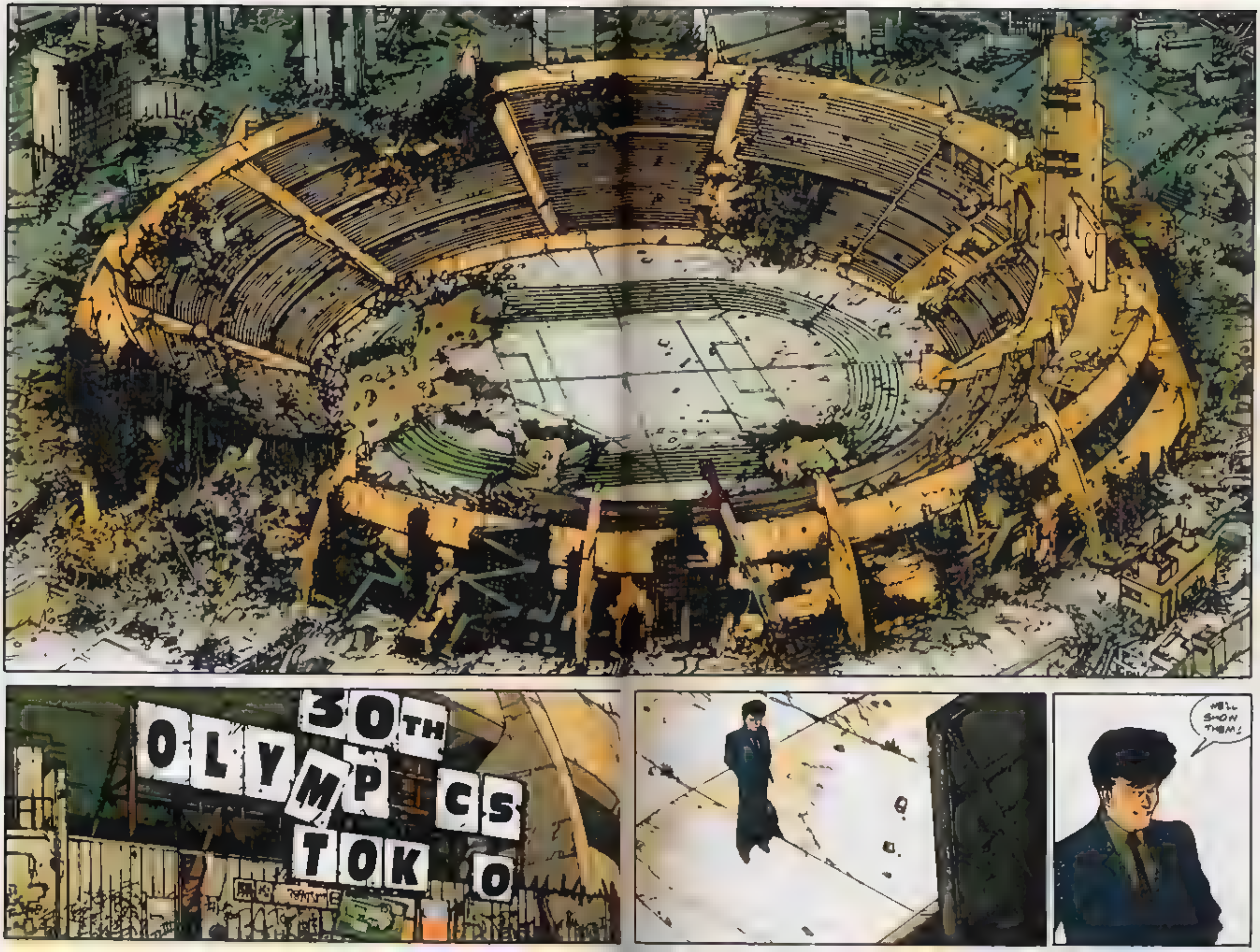

WHOA!
AWESOME! DOES IT WORK?
LOOKY!
LOOKY!
GET LOST, YOU PUNKS!
WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
GO DIE OR SOME-THING!
YA BIG BULLIES!
WE'RE ALMOST AS OLD AS YOU!
YEAH!
UH-OH!
I WAS WORRIED..
THAT YOU'D BRING MY BIKES BACK SCRATCHED OR DENTED
GEE...
..THAT'S NICE OF YOU!



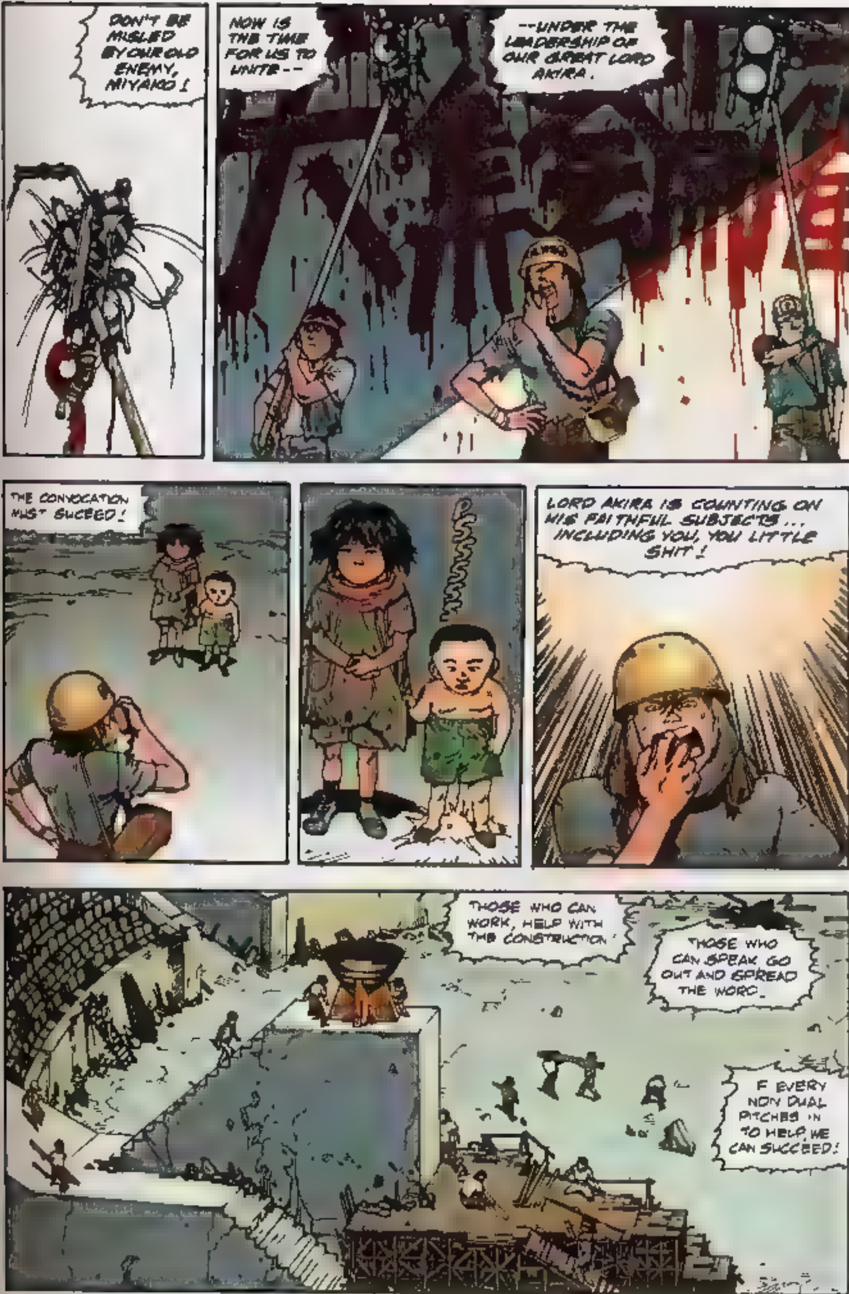
YOU HANDLE THIS ONE
HUNM...?
STEP
...BUT I COULD ONLY FIND ONE BIKE!!
KA
KANEDAA!
VYOOOM
HE'S RUNNING
HEYY!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! GO GET HIM!!
KANEDA! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!


THP
"THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE CONVOCATION."
DONE
OKAY COME ON
THERE'S A WALL ON FIFTH STREET WE CAN DO NEXT


THEY WERE FROM THE EMPIRE
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO ?
HUH ?
WHAT'S IT MEAN ?
"THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE CONVOCATION"
A CONVOCATION . ?


30TH
OLYMP CS
TOK O
WE'LL SHOW THEM!


HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!
ATTENTION, ALL SUBJECTS OF THE GREAT TOKYO EMPIRE!
EVERYONE IS SUMMONED TO ATTEND OUR GRAND CONVOCATION! THERE SHALL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!
WE WILL CONVENE AT THE NEO TOKYO OLYMPIC STADIUM!
THAT IS WHERE YOU MUST GATHER!
SHARE THE MOMENT OF SUPREME BLISS WITH OUR GREAT LORD AKIRA!

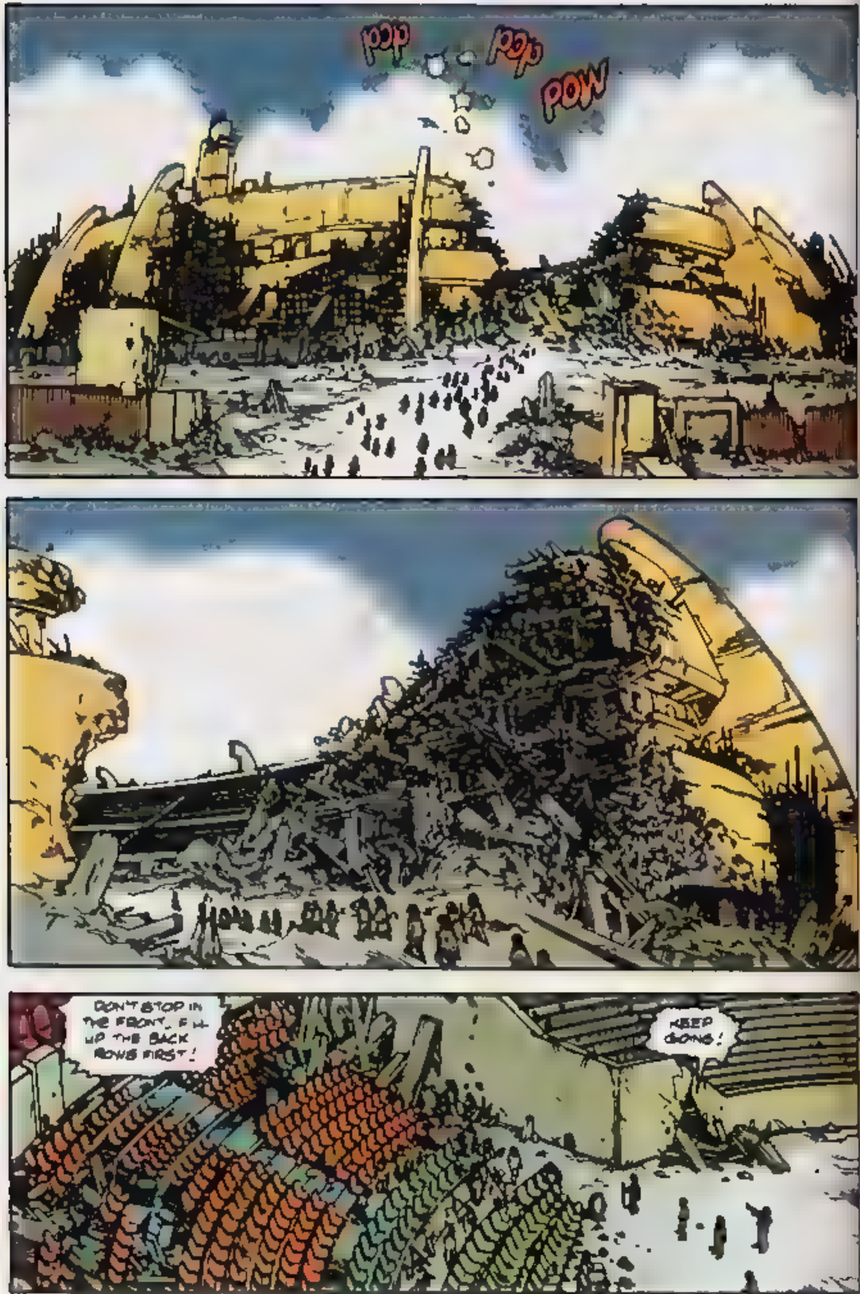

DON'T BE MISLED BY OUR OLD ENEMY, MIYAKO!
NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO UNITE--
--UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR GREAT LORD AKIRA.
THE CONVOCATION MUST SUCEED!
LORD AKIRA IS COUNTING ON HIS FAITHFUL SUBJECTS... INCLUDING YOU, YOU LITTLE SHIT!
THOSE WHO CAN WORK, HELP WITH THE CONSTRUCTION!
THOSE WHO CAN SPEAK GO OUT AND SPREAD THE WORD.
F EVERY NDIVIDUAL PITCHES IN TO HELP, WE CAN SUCCEED!


tak
CONVOCATION ?
A CONVOCATION ?!
W TH AKIRA
TETSUO...?!
HONEST!


HOW'S IT GOING?
MAKING MUCH PROGRESS?
YESSIR!
WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH ELECTRICITY
. BUT FUEL FOR THE LIGHTING OF OUR SACRED FLAME MAY PRESENT A PROBLEM
NATURAL GAS IS THE ONLY THING THAT BURNS STEADILY..
SO, STOP WHINING, DO YOUR JOB, AND FIND SOME
Y-YESSIR!
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS' WORTH SHOULD BE ENOUGH
A BRIGHT, CLEAR LIGHT WILL BE JUST THE SYMBOL WE NEED!


TAK TAK
TAK TAK
FLUP
EEEK!
HERE'S ANOTHER!
WHY AREN'T YOU AT THE CONVOCATION?!
I FOUND ONE!
SHOOTING FIVE OR SIX OF 'EM WOULD TEACH THE REST A LESSON
THEIR BLOOD WOULD DESECRATE THE DAY!
ROUND 'EM ALL UP TOGETHER, THE TRAITORS!
BUT MY LEGS ARE .. I CAN'T.


LORD AKIRA!
MIGHTY LORD!
THE OLYMPIC STADIUM IS JUST AHEAD! REMEMBER TO LEAVE YOUR OFFERINGS AT THE GATE!
REJOICE! OUR FIRST NATIONAL CELEBRATION IS UPON US!


pop
pop
POW
DON'T STOP IN THE FRONT. FILL UP THE BACK ROWS FIRST!
KEEP GOING!

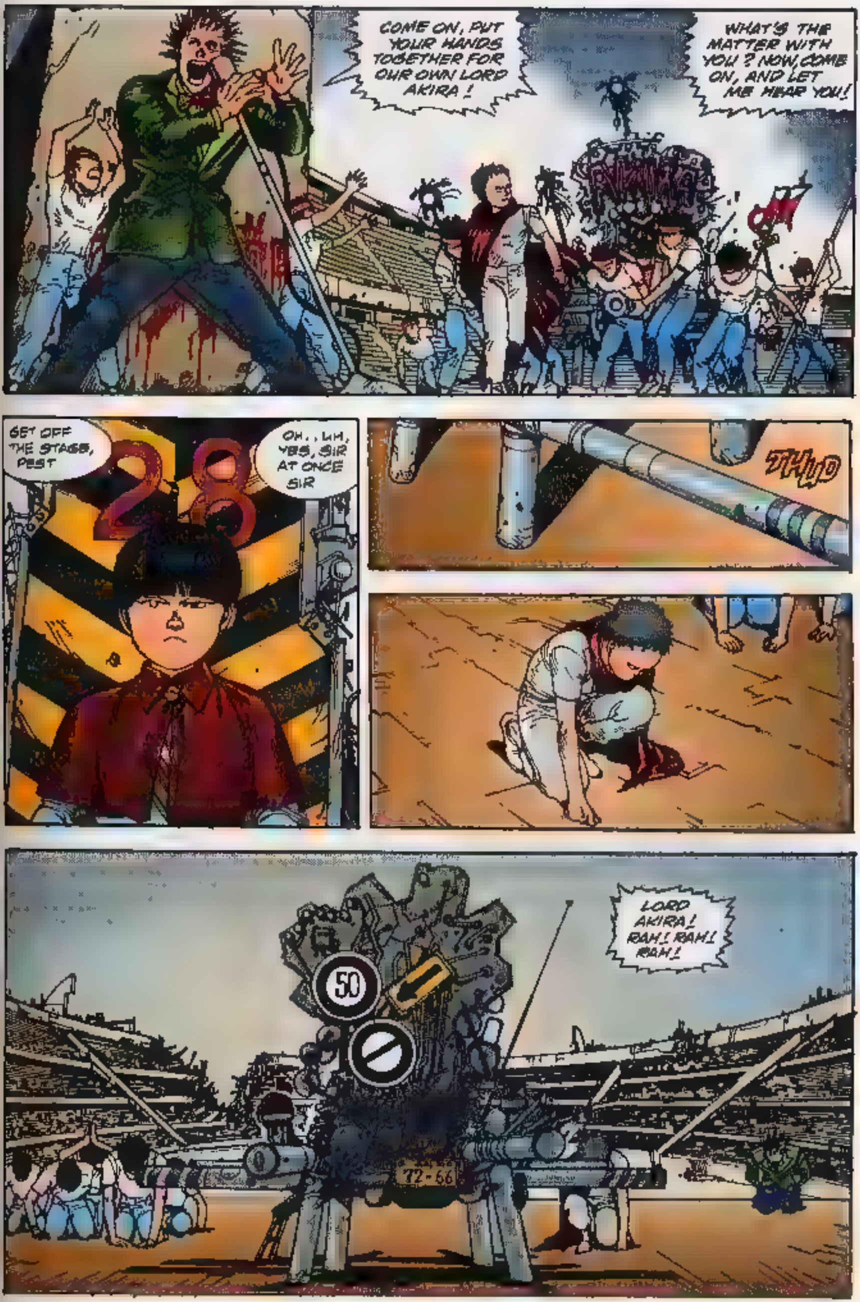

AKIRA
THANK YOU!
TESTING, TESTING, ONE TWO, THREE, FOUR!
WHAT IS THIS?
HE'S USING A MICROPHONE!
THEY'VE GOT ELECRICITY...?!
HEY, EVERY-BODY, ARE YOU FEELIN' GOOD TODAY? COME ON, NOW!
I CAN'T HE-EE-EAR YOU!
OF COURSE WE'RE NOT FEELING GOOD
WE'RE TOO HUNGRY TO FEEL GOOD
YOU WANT US TO FEEL GOOD, THEN FEED US!
ASSHOLE!
LORD AKIRA AND MASTER TETSUO ARE APPROACHING RIGHT NOW!
HEY, STUPID, THERE'S A HOLE IN YOUR PANTS!
COME ON, NOW! LET THEM HEAR HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO SEE THEM!
IS YOUR FACE RED, OR WHAT?


LET'S HEAR IT FOR LORD AKIRA!
HIP-HIP--
--HOORAY! BANZAI!
AKIRA
28
BANZAI!
KEEP BACK, YOU.
BLESS ME, LORD AKIRA.
GET YOUR BLESSINGS INSIDE!
LORD AKIRA!
BACK OFF!


LORD AKIRA!
HOORAY! BANZA!
HERE HE COMES!
YAY! HOORAY!
DAMN! I CAN'T GET BY THEM!
BUT I'VE GOT TO GET CLOSER TO THE STADIUM!
I CAN'T JUST FIRE IT OFF HERE..
CAN I..?
HOLD IT!
!
HUNH?
I OWE YOU THIS!
THOK

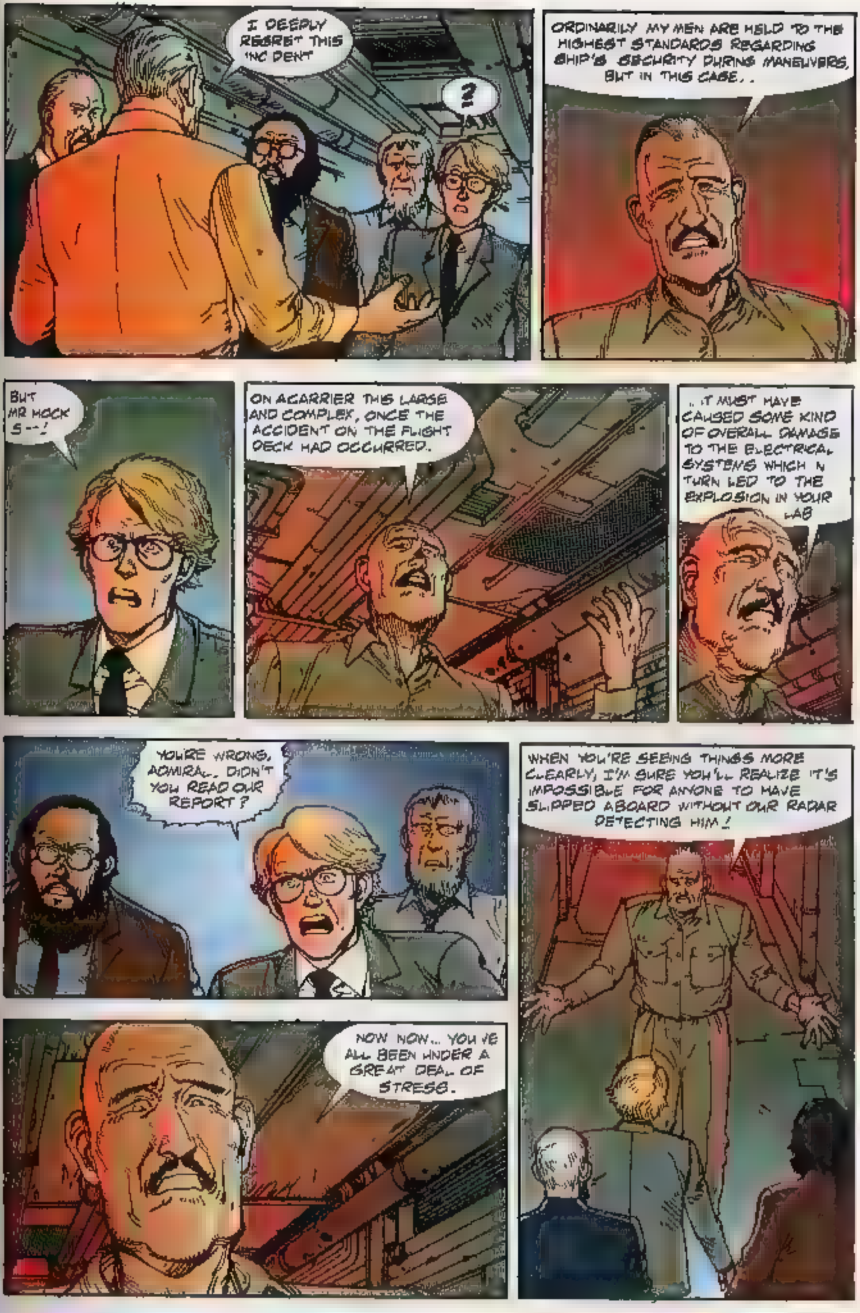


... OOG ...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, FRIEND?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO COUNT ME OUT
Y...
Y-YOU SCUMSUCKER... I'LL MAKE YOU SORRY.
YOU WERE BORN
TRY NOT TO TAKE IT SO HARD I JUST BECAME ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS
HERE THEY ARE, FOLKS!
LET'S WELCOME THEM WITH A REALLY WARM ROUND OF APPLAUSE!
YAY!



COME ON, PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR OUR OWN LORD AKIRA!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? NOW, COME ON, AND LET ME HEAR YOU!
GET OFF THE STAGE, PEST
OH.. UH, YES, SIR AT ONCE SIR
THUD
LORD AKIRA! RAH! RAH! RAH!

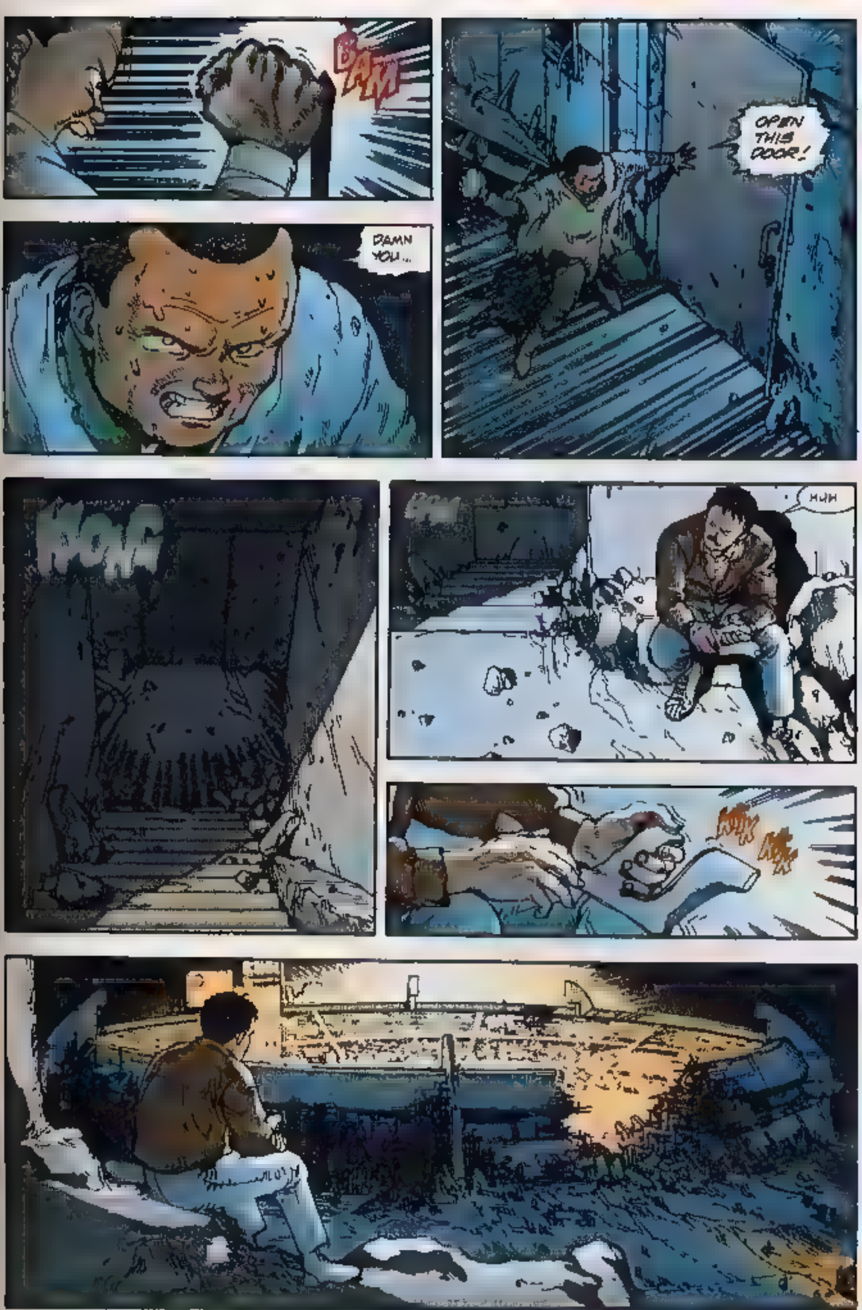

SHFF SHFF
ADMIRAL, WE'RE RECEIVING A MESSAGE!
IT'S PRIORITY ONE, SIR!
THEY NEED YOU IN THE INFIRMARY!
!
I WAS NOTIFIED THAT DR. GEORGE HOCK IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION!
HAS THERE BEEN ANY IMPROVEMENT?
I...
.. UNDERSTAND THEY'RE TRYING TO SET THE BROKEN RIBS NOW AS FOR THE REST...


I DEEPLY REGRET THIS INCIDENT
?
ORDINARILY MY MEN ARE HELD TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS REGARDING SHIP'S SECURITY DURING MANEUVERS, BUT IN THIS CASE. .
BUT MR HOCKS --!
ON A CARRIER THIS LARGE AND COMPLEX, ONCE THE ACCIDENT ON THE FLIGHT DECK HAD OCCURRED.
..IT MUST HAVE CAUSED SOME KIND OF OVERALL DAMAGE TO THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS WHICH IN TURN LED TO THE EXPLOSION IN YOUR LAB
YOU'RE WRONG, ADMIRAL. DIDN'T YOU READ OUR REPORT?
NOW NOW... YOU'VE ALL BEEN UNDER A GREAT DEAL OF STRESS.
WHEN YOU'RE SEEING THINGS MORE CLEARLY, I'M SURE YOU'LL REALIZE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO HAVE SLIPPED ABOARD WITHOUT OUR RADAR DETECTING HIM!


SHFF SHFF
ONE!
AKIRA


TWO!
THREE!
FOUR!
THROUGH... THE DARKNESS!
OOH-OOH-OOH!
WE WANDERED AIMLESSLY!
AIM-LESSLY!
WE WERE AIMLESS AND ALONE! WITHOUT LOVE!
OH, YEAH!


GET YOUR FOOD HERE! GOOD, HOT FOOD HERE, FOR EVERYONE!
PLAY SOME DANCE MUSIC!
HE HEALED OUR PAIN!
BOOO!
GIVE IT UP, YOU DORK!
YOUR FLY'S OPEN!
THEN WE SAW A LIGHT!
HE SHOWED THE WAY!
WOO-OO-OO-OOH BECAUSE HE IS...
SING PRAISE TO MIGHTY LORD AKIRA!
LORD AKIRA!
DROP DEAD!
HOORAY!
BOO!
BANZA!
OVER HERE!
YAAAAY!
OUR GREAT LORD!


BAM
DAMN YOU...
OPEN THIS DOOR!
HUH



Klatter
AHAHAHAHA!
OHH! LO-OORD AKIRA!
bubble
NOW YOU'RE WARMING UP? THAT'S THE TICKET!
BUT OUR LORD AKIRA WANTS MORE!
LET HIM REALLY HEAR YOU!
MASTER TETSUO, I THINKS IT'S TIME.
YOU SHOWED THEM WHAT YOU CAN REALLY DO!


HMMM...
MASTER, PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO UNITE OUR SUB-JECTS' HEARTS_
OOHUUUH!
HEY! CHECK THAT OUT!
LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE MAN'S AMAZ-ING PSYCHIC POWER!
OOH! AAH_
GET OFF THE STAGE!
GRRRUNT!
ALL RIGHT
THANK YOU, MASTER! I GROVEL AT YOUR FEET TRULY
YESSIR! RIGHT AWAY SIR!
GET LOST
YOU'RE OUTTA HERE
SAY WHAT?
BUT I WAS JUS' GETTIN STARTED!
THUD

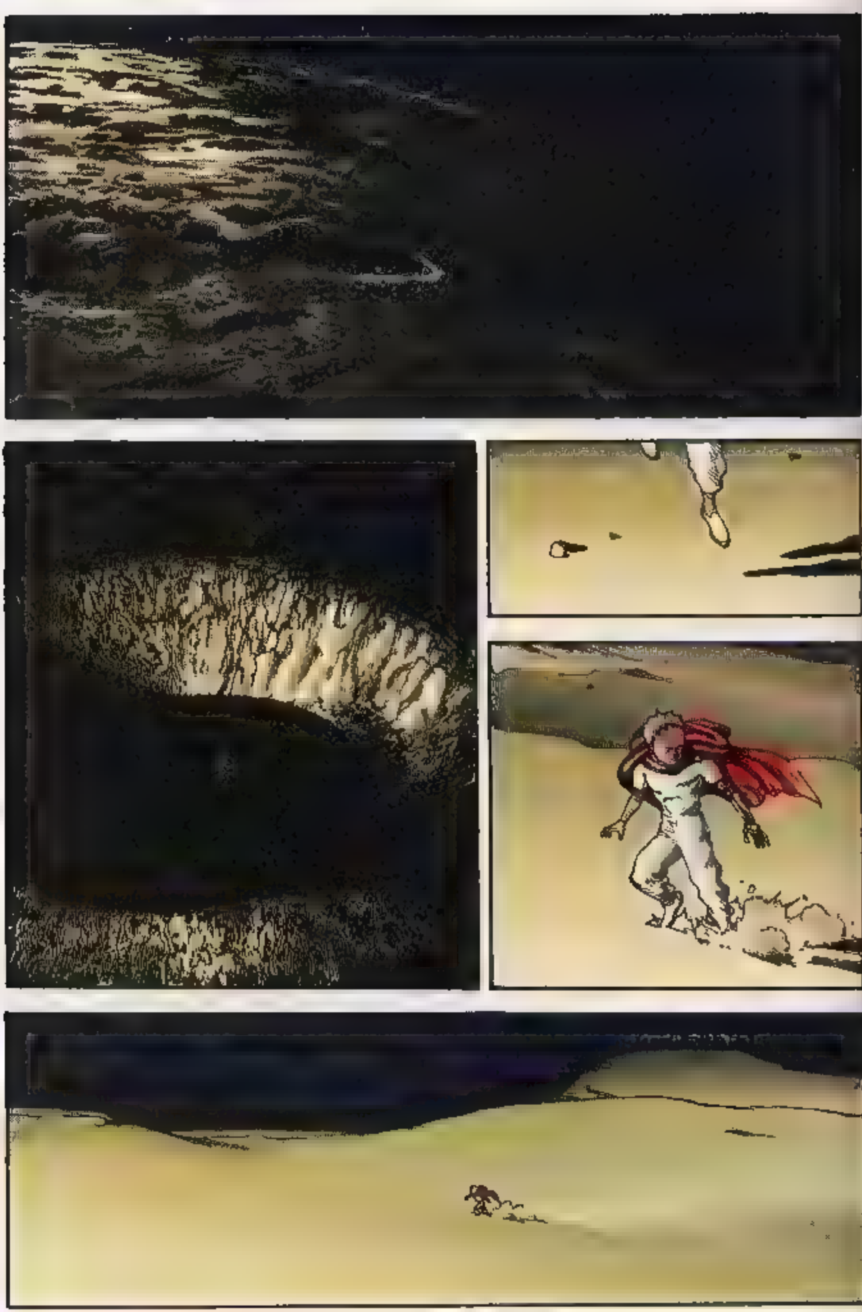

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- MASTER TETSUO!
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
MASTER TETSUO!
WHAT?!
QUIET, STUPID!
YAY! HOORAY!


HOW ABOUT THE MOON, LORD ?
THE MOON...
YES, MY LORD.
WHAT THE--?!


YOU MEAN THE MOON MOON ?
IN THE SKY ?
KRAK
¡GASP!¡
EEP!
AKIRA
WHAT'D HE DO?
DID YOU SEE..?
WHERE DID HE GO?
I DON'T GET IT



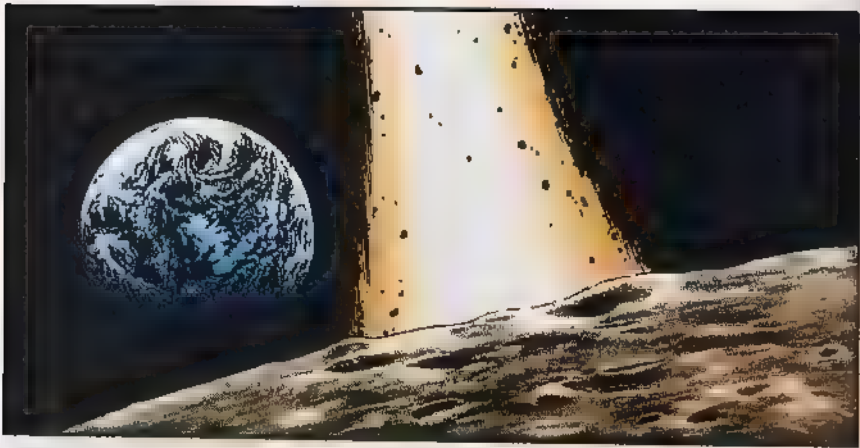


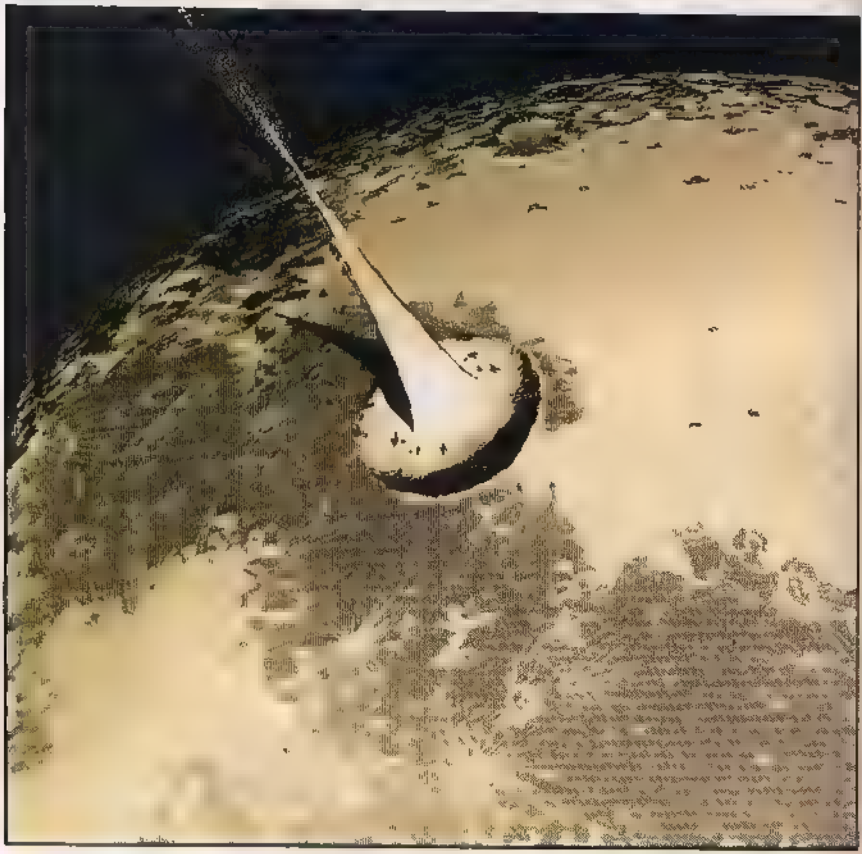




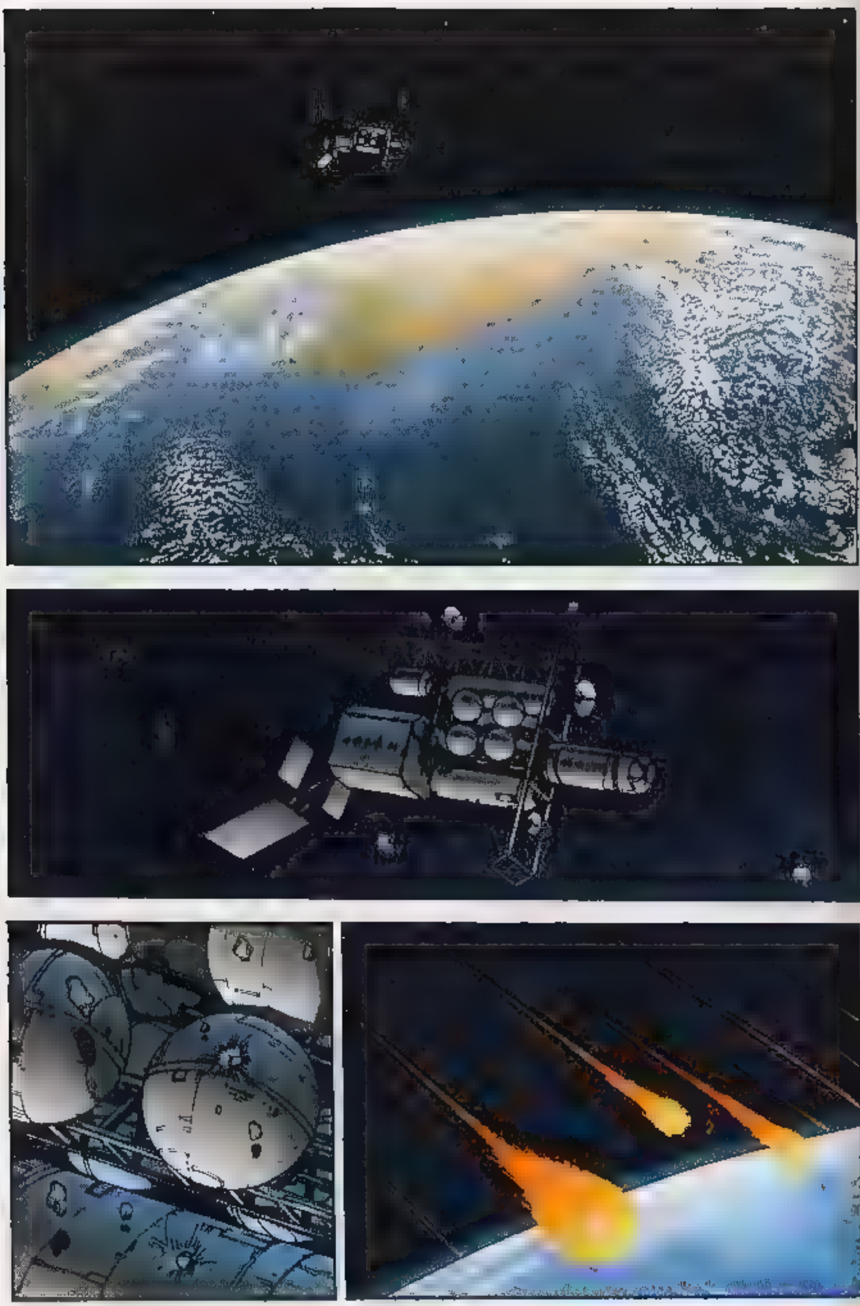

OF COURSE WE'RE AWARE OF IT THE PHONE'S BEEN RINGING OFF THE HOOK!
OF COURSE WE'RE CHECKING IT OUT!
OH, PROFESSOR
LATER!
AACH, THERE YOU ARE!
PROFESSOR
WHAT'S ALL THIS TALK ABOUT A COLUMN RISING ON THE MOON?
BETTER SEE FOR YOURSELF


I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS!
WHAT IN ?!
THE MOON?
WHERE?
WHAT ABOUT THE MOON?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING
SO, MOVE!
YES, FOLKS, IT'S THAT SPECIAL NIGHT-- A BLUE MOON!
NOW, LET'S HEAR IT -- ONE.. TWO. THREE...
YAYY!










BOOOM
KLONG
ONG
ONG


WASHED IN MOONLIIIIGHT, WE TOOK THE LONG WAY HOME...
... ON A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY TO THE PLACE WHERE WE FIRST MET...
HOLDING EACH OTHER AND HOLDING OUR DREAMS...
. THE TWO OF US, GOING HOME..
LORD AKIRA! MIGHTY LORD AKIRA!!
HAH! SEEN ONE MOON, YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL!
YEAAAH!
STORM IS GONNA RISE, AND THE WIND IS GONNA BLOW!
LORD AKIRAAA!
BLUE MOO-OOON, TRULY BLUE...
IT'S RAINING!
AKIRA
GET LORD AKIRA IN OUT OF THE RAIN!


HURRY!
MOVE IT, YOU!
EEK!
COME ON! I JUST SAW LIGHTNING FLASH!
AAUGH!



KRAK
ZAP
RRUMBLE
RRUNK
¡GASP!
BOOM



NEXT ISSUE: **SWEPT AWAY**



OTOMO VISITS NEW YORK

Katsuhiro Otomo conducted his first ever book signing at **Forbidden Planet**, New York on October 20, 1990. He signed comics, movie cels, posters, and other Akira-related materials for a half an hour.

Otomo was in town for the New York premiere of **Akira** the animated movie, and also met with the Epic staff to discuss current **Akira** work and plans for possible future collaborations. Above, Otomo meets with Jo Duffy, the writer of the English adaptation of **Akira**.

AKIRA: the movie AN UPDATE

Since its U.S. release over a year ago, **Akira** has enjoyed success beyond all anticipation at box offices across the country. Though its first run ended last summer in most cities, **Akira** will be returning to New York in March as part of a Japanese film festival at the **Film Forum**, where it set a theater record for the number of weeks held over last fall.

Meanwhile, in response to overwhelming public demand, **Streamline Pictures** released the English-speaking version of **Akira** on video tape on February 12 of this year. The tape will not be available in video stores, but may be obtained directly through comic book stores or mail order. Information about the video tape and animation cels is available from **STREAMLINE PICTURES, P.O. BOX 691418, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069.**

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

YASUMITSU SUETAKE

SATOSHI TAKABATAKE

HIROSHI HIRATA

AKIRA SAITO

Kodansha Ltd.

YOKO UMEZAWA

KENICHI YODA
MASAKAZU NISHITANI

YUKA ANDO

NOBUYUKI OKAZAKI

Epic Comics

JO DUFFY

STEVE OLIFF

OLYOPTICS COMPUTER COLOR

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS

POLLY WATSON

MARIE JAVINS

MARC McLAURIN

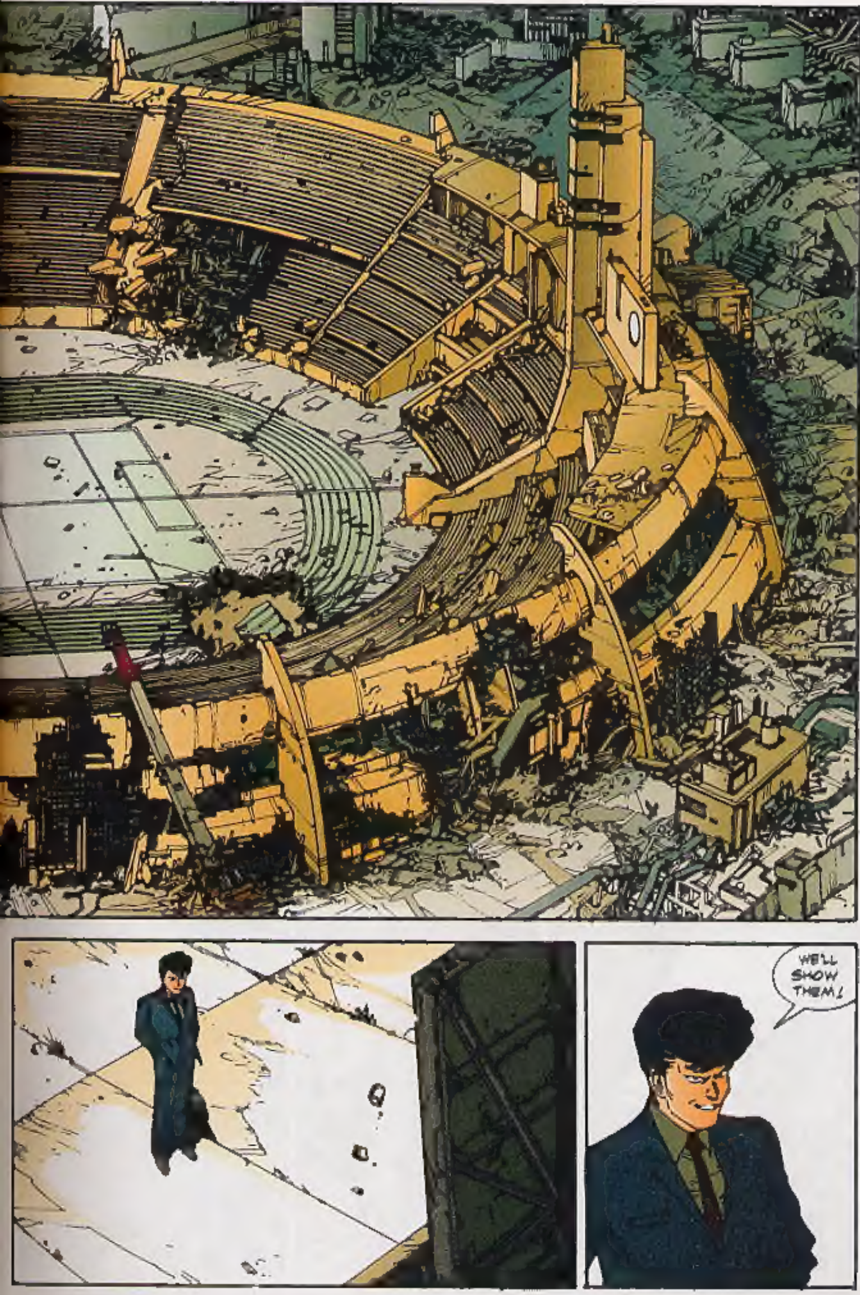
CARL POTTS

The Great Tokyo Empire under Emperor Akira plans a grand convocation, a festive gala to be attended by one and all, for there's plenty to celebrate in Neo Tokyo this day. Starvation in the ruins. The winds of war between the forces of the Emperor and Lady Miyako. The threat of a super power attack with bio-chemical weapons. And Tetsuo toying with the very fabric of the cosmos itself. Rejoice, indeed . . . for tomorrow may be even worse.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S




30TH
OLYMP CS
TOK O


WE'LL SHOW THEM!



